

## **OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY**

**Calendar Year 2009**  
**(January - December 2009)**

State gross business income decreased \$61.6 billion, or 9.8 percent, in calendar year 2009 compared to calendar year 2008. Major industries experienced a drop in gross business income in at least 3 of the 4 quarters of calendar year 2009, slowing growth overall in the state.

Decreases in Manufacturing, Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade continue to reflect the weakened economy in Washington. Construction as a whole was down 24.3 percent in calendar year 2009 as compared to calendar year 2008. Industry specific decreases include New and Used Auto Dealers down 15 percent or \$2 billion over last year and Gas Stations down 24.6%. Decreases in Food Products 15.3 percent and Computer and Electronic 26.9 percent helped result in an overall decrease of 12.1 percent, or \$16 billion, in Manufacturing.

Not all industries experienced declines. E-commerce and mail order continued to buck the trend with an overall increase of \$2.5 billion, or 24.5 percent. Other industries that experienced growth were Schools up 4 percent year over year, and Health Services up 8.9 percent as compared to 2008.

Taxable Retail Sales in most counties were down. King and Pierce both experienced declines of 13.3 percent and 10.9 percent respectively; while Snohomish dropped 10.8 percent. Clark County was down 14.4 percent and Spokane County was down 7.2 percent. This trend carried through to the incorporated areas as well. Seattle was down 11.7 percent, Bellevue was down 13.8 percent and Tacoma experienced a decline of 11.3 percent. Vancouver had a decline of 14.2 percent as compared to 2008 and Yakima was down 7.7 percent.

Some areas did see gains in Taxable Retail Sales year over year. Asotin and Klickitat Counties were both up at 11.4 percent and 18.9 percent respectively. The cities of Oak Harbor and Richland were both up 2.2 percent. Shelton saw a .6 percent increase over 2008 and Mountlake Terrace was up 1.2 percent.